

limiting the acceptable response to the requirement that the declaration "specifically identify an error," to identifying "a single word/phrase, or expression" in the claims. Applicants respectfully submit that this limited acceptable response is not applicable to the present application.

Applicants agree that in those situations where the error being relied upon in the declaration consists of an error in an original claim, one cannot generally state that the error "may be noted from the changes made in the disclosure," or "merely reproduce the claims with brackets and underlining and state that such will identify the error." See MPEP §1414(II) and In re Constant. In such a case, these general statements do not specifically identify the error; in the case of reproducing the amended claim, the restatement of the amended claim includes both amended and original elements, and so is not specific to the error.

However, here the specific error being corrected is not a defect in an existing claim, but the failure to include one or more new claims; the restatement of the new claim in the declaration includes only that which is new — the new claim — and so is specific to the error. Moreover, one cannot identify this error more specifically than to restate the newly introduced claim. Since there is not a one-to-one correspondence between elements of the original claims and those of the newly introduced claims, one cannot properly characterize the error by individually identifying a specific word or phrase in the new claim — the identification of the word or phrase, taken out of context of the entirely new claim, would not accurately characterize the actual error, i.e., the failure of the original patent to recite the newly introduced claim as a whole.

In summary, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner is correct that one cannot merely reproduce a claim and state that it will satisfy the error, where the error

comprises one or more changes made to an existing claim. However, where the error comprises the failure of the original patent to include a new claim, one cannot accurately characterize this error by a comparison of specific elements of the original and new claims. The objection to the declaration is therefore believed to be improper, and its withdrawal is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 24 as follows:

--24. (Amended) A method for providing an electrical and [fluid] fluidic connector on an electro-fluidic conductor, said electrical and fluidic connector having a first member and a second member that are separate and both electrically conductive, said second member having a fluid port that facilitates fluidic connection to a fluid conductor and said second member being configured to facilitate electrical connection to an electrical conductor, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) securing said first member to said electro-fluidic conductor such that said first member encircles an end portion of said electro-fluidic conductor and forms a fluid tight seal thereto, and electrically connects therewith; and

(b) matably connecting said first member to said second member such that said first member and said second member define a hollow inner chamber that comprises a fluid tight chamber for passing fluid between said electro-fluidic conductor and said fluid port of said second member, and wherein said first member and said second member themselves define an electrical connection between said electro-fluidic conductor and said electrical conductor when said electrical conductor is attached to said second member.--

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COMPARISON — CLAIMS OF 08/966,368 WITH USP 5,557,837

25. The method of claim 24, wherein said method further comprises the step of removing a defective electrical and fluidic connector from said electro-fluidic conductor prior to said securing step (a).

Step "a." Col 3, lines 57-58.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein said defective electrical and fluidic connector comprises a single piece electrical and fluidic connector such that said method includes removing said single piece electrical and fluidic connector from said electro-fluidic conductor prior to said securing step (a).

Col 3, lines 57-58. As to the "single piece" limitation, the defective connector being removed is a conventional connector, which would not be an inventive two piece connector. Note Figure 1.

27. The method of claim 25, wherein said removing said defective electrical and fluidic connector comprises the step of heating said defective electrical and fluidic connector to soften an existing brazing alloy securing said defective electrical and fluidic connector to said electro-fluid conductor such that said removing step is facilitated.

Col 3, lines 57-58; col. 4, lines 17-19. Note "inductive heating."

28. The method of claim 24, wherein said method further comprises the step of verifying said fluid tight seal of said securing step (a) prior to said matably connecting step (b).

Step "i." Col. 4, line 11. Col 5, lines 13-19.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein said verifying step includes affixing a test cap to said first member and pressurizing said electro-fluidic conductor such that any leaks between said first member and said electro-fluidic conductor are detected.

The sealing test of col. 5, lines 16-19.

30. The method of claim 24, wherein said securing step (a) comprises the step of brazing said first member to said electro-fluidic conductor using a first brazing alloy.

Step "h." Col. 4, lines 9-10.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein prior to said brazing step, said securing step (a)

Steps "f" and "g." Col. 4, lines 3-7.

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disc
soldering
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brazing

includes placing said first brazing alloy around said end portion of said electro-fluidic conductor.

32. The method of claim 30, wherein said matably connecting step (b) comprises brazing said first member to said second member using a second brazing alloy having a lower melting temperature than a melting temperature of said first brazing alloy.

Col. 5, lines 35-40.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein said connecting step (b) comprises heating said first member and said second member to a temperature at least as high as the melting temperature of the second brazing alloy but lower than the melting temperature of the first brazing alloy such that the first brazing alloy does not melt during said connecting step (b).

Col. 5, lines 35-40 ("in order to prevent damage to those silver-solder joints").

34. The method of claim 24, wherein said first member has at least one groove on an outer surface thereof, and wherein said method further comprises inserting a third brazing alloy into said at least one groove such that said matably connecting step (b) comprises brazing said first member to said second member using said third brazing alloy.

Step "g." Col 4, lines 6-8.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein said matably connecting step (b) comprises inserting said first member flush into said second member prior to said brazing of said first member to said second member.

Note Fig. 5. First member 2a fits into second member 2b.

36. The method of claim 35, wherein said method includes placing a ribbon alloy on an outer surface of said first member after said inserting of said third brazing alloy into said at least one groove and prior to said inserting said first member into said second member, said ribbon alloy securing said first member to said second member as a result of said brazing of said first member to said

Note that solder "foil" is used (col. 5, line 23; "with the interposition of solder foils"). Col. 5, line 23. A foil is a ribbon.

second member.

37. The method of claim 24, wherein said matably connecting step (b) comprises inserting said first member into said second member and brazing said first member to said second member.

38. The method of claim 37, wherein said method includes placing a ribbon alloy on an outer surface of said first member prior to said inserting said first member into said second member.

39. The method of claim 37, wherein said method further comprises applying pressure that forces said first member into said second member during said brazing of said first member to said second member.

40. The method of claim 24, wherein said method further comprises the step of connecting said electrical conductor and said fluidic conductor to said electrical and fluidic connector for facilitating electrical and fluidic connection thereto.

41. The method of claim 40, wherein said step of connecting said electrical conductor and said fluidic conductor to said electrical and fluidic connector comprises brazing said electrical conductor and said fluidic conductor to said electrical and fluidic connector.

42. The method of claim 41, wherein said fluidic conductor and said electrical conductor comprise a single conductive pipe such that said step of connecting said electrical conductor and said fluidic conductor to said electrical and fluidic connector comprises brazing said single conductive pipe to said electrical and fluidic connector.

43. The method of claim 40, wherein said

Note Fig. 5. First member 2a fits into second member 2b. Brazing is done in step "j." Col. 4, lines 12-14.

Note that solder "foil" is used (col. 5, line 23, "with the interposition of solder foils"). Col. 5, line 23. A foil is a ribbon.

The tight fit shown in Fig. 5 inherently requires the use of pressure to assemble the parts 2a and 2b. Indeed, if the parts were so loose that no pressure was required, there would be leaks.

Col. 5, lines 27-29.

Inherent, since only brazing or soldering connections are described in the specification.

Inherent in description that electrical connection is made to part 2b. Col. 5, lines 27-29.

Inherent. Otherwise electrical shorting

method further comprises the step of insulating the electrical and fluidic connector.

would occur.

44. The method of claim 24, wherein said electro-fluidic conductor comprises a stator bar in a water cooled electric machine, and wherein said securing step (a) and said matably connecting step (b) are performed while said stator bar is installed in said water cooled electric machine.

Col. 1, lines 22-23.